GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:157
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
GUIDELINES FOR GIFTS RECEIVED BY VVIPS
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has laid down certain guidelines with regard to gifts received by WIPs in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such gifts become personal property of the recipient;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of gifts received by the WIPs during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a)& (b) Yes.Gifts received by WIPs from foreign countries are governed by Foreign Contribution (Acceptance or Retention of Gifts or Presentations) Regulations, - 1978 as amended from time to time.

(c)& (d) Gifts valued upto Rs. 5000/- can be retained by the recipient. If the value of the gift is more than Rs. 5000/-,it can be retained by the recipient after payment of excess value to the government or else it is required to be deposited in the Toshakhana in Ministry of External Affairs. Value of the gifts is assessed by a customs appraiser who is invited to assess the same periodically.

(e) Details of the gifts received by WIPs during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Total No. of Gifts Received
2006	39
2007	63
2008	43

Country wise details of the gifts received are at Annexure-I.